

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 41 through 94 are pending, with Claims 41, 60, 66, and 76 being independent. Claims 41, 49, 53, 59, 60, 62, 63, 66, 72, 76, and 77 have been amended. Claims 87 through 94 have been added.

Applicant gratefully wishes to thank the Examiner and Primary Examiner for the courtesies extended in granting and conducting on March 26, 2004, a personal interview with Applicant's representative. At the interview, Applicant's representative and the Examiners discussed the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,640,504 (Johnson, Jr.), which is respectfully traversed, as well as proposed amendments to the claims, and Applicant gratefully appreciates the kind suggestions of the Examiners as to claim language. It will be appreciated that the claims have been amended along the lines discussed at the interview and in view of such suggestions. Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Claims 48, 59, and 70 were objected to and indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has respectfully maintained these claims in dependent form as it is earnestly believed that the claims from which they depend will be found allowable.

Claim 49 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, as indefinite. All rejections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of that claim in a manner believed to avoid the grounds of rejection, viz, a definition for the objected-to term "MTU" has been provided. Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Claims 41 through 47, 55 through 58, 66 through 69, 78, and 80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,640,504 (Johnson, Jr.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed at the interview, Claim 41 recites, inter alia, that a driver, for use in a computing device having a TCP/IP stack, generates a second IP packet that encapsulates the first IP packet, wherein the source IP address of the second IP packet is different from the source IP address of the first IP packet.

Claim 60 recites, inter alia, that a driver, for use in a computing device having a TCP/IP stack, is configured to send a first IP packet from the TCP/IP stack through an IP tunnel across a network, wherein the source IP address of an IP packet of the IP tunnel is different from the source IP address of the first IP packet.

Claim 66 recites, inter alia, means for generating a second IP packet by applying an encapsulation protocol to the first IP packet, the second IP packet having as its destination IP address an IP address of a gateway apparatus on the Internet, wherein the source IP address of the second IP packet is different from the source IP address of the first IP packet.

Claim 76 recites, inter alia, that a Network layer source address of a packet of the Network layer tunnel is different from a source IP address of an IP packet received by the Network layer tunnel from the TCP/IP stack.

However, as discussed at the interview, Applicant respectfully submits that Johnson, Jr., et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 41, 60, 66, and 76. Furthermore, the statements in the Official Action that various claimed features are well-known or obvious are respectfully traversed in the absence of a cited reference. MPEP 2144.03.

It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited document that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the above-discussed claimed features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INTERVIEW

If any questions remain, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned representative, Craig L. Plastrik, at (301) 601-7252 to schedule an additional personal interview. Favorable consideration in this regard is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: PD-94026G  
Customer No.: 020991

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached at (301) 601-7252. All  
correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



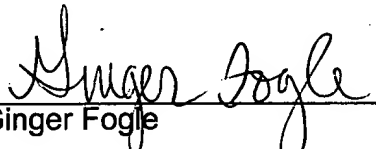
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